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All Prisoners

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Toronto's Anarchist Bi-Weekly **Ecomedia**

BULLETIN

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Canadian Prisoners Remember

This year's Prison Justice Day activities begin Wednesday, August 9 at 7 p.m. with a benefit for Toronto Anarchist Black Cross (prisoners support and abolitionist organization), the Wimmin Prisoners Survival Network and the General Defence Committee of the Toronto IWW. P4W, a film about Kingston Prison for Women by Janis Cole and Holly Dale will be shown. Maggie MacDonald, author of "The Violent Years of Maggie MacDonald" (in which she discusses her incarceration for killing two husbands who had abused her) and Wanda Whitebird (a traditional Micmac woman who has been involved in prisoners' support work on both Federal and Provincial levels for the last 15 years) will speak. Lots of non alcoholic refreshments will be available. It all happens at the Euclid Theatre, 394 Euclid Ave., and admission is \$5 (\$3 under employed.)

Thursday August 10 is Prison Justice Day, held every year to commemorate the suicide of a prisoner who had spent several years in solitary confinement in 1974. August 10th is the day that the prisoners dedicate to those who have died alone and in horrendous conditions, those murdered and those who could no longer cope with the terrors of prison and so resorted to the taking of their own lives. Cruelly, prisoners are threatened with

a variety of punishments for participating in that day of reflection, mourning and fasting in honour of the dead. Everyone and anyone is invited to share with us what the day represents, whether inside the walls or outside the walls. We ask that people lend support to this day.

On August 10, A car caravan will form at the Christie Pits subway stop on Bloor St. at 1 p.m. (rides are available), and at 1:30 leave for the West End Detention Centre, 111 Disco

Road, where a picket and rally will take place from 2:30 to 3. The caravan will then travel to the Queen St. Mental Health Centre, 1001 Queen St. West (at Ossington) for a rally and picket from 4:30 to 5. Then on to the Don Jail (just north of Broadview and Gerrard) for speakers and a rally at 6 p.m. At 7:30, there will be a cultural evening at A Space, 183 Bathurst Avenue, featuring songs and readings of prose, poetry and scripts created by Canadian

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Bristol Meyers: Blood on their hands?

AIDS Action Now, an advocacy group for AIDS victims, is asking supporters to boycott products of Bristol Myers, a U.S.-owned pharmaceutical company which is refusing to release DDI, an experimental anti-AIDS drug, to Canadians living with AIDS who are in desperate need of treatment. Bristol Myers products include Javex, Windex, Ban, Fleecy, Bufferin, Miss Clairol, Mr. Muscle, Excedrin, Nice 'n' Easy, Claress, Body on Tap Shampoo and Herbal Essence Shampoo. Through them, it makes over \$300 million in sales each year in Canada.

Many people living with aids (PLWAs) are not able to tolerate AZT, the only drug approved by the federal government to treat the HIV (human immuno virus) infection associated with AIDS. According to scientific reports at the V International Conference on AIDS held in Montreal last month, DDI is more effective and less toxic than AZT, and is therefore the only hope for people who are AZT intolerant.

Canadian regulations allow PLWAs, or anyone who is seriously ill, access to experimental treatments through the

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4th Annual Anarchist Gathering Report:

Boneheads Bust-Up Berkeley

The Fourth Annual Continental Anarchist Gathering just wrapped up in San Francisco and from all reports it was to say the least, hectic.

It all started off July 18 with a wimmins only Obnoxious Wimmins Network gathering. The event lasted two days and included workshops around wimmin and prisons, wimmin and health, and sexuality. It included a gig by The Yeastie Girlz.

From what we've heard, the week of the gathering itself was fairly well organized with brunch and dinner provided every day free of charge. There was a daily newspaper and each day started with an open mike and plenary. There were 7 workshops scheduled at a time with attendance ranging from 70 - 100 people at each. Overall attendance at the gathering was around 1800. As can be expected with that many people, housing them all was a problem, and many people didn't have a place to stay. Other problems were workshops being scheduled on what were to be days dealing exclusively with combatting Sexism and Racism, Childcare was a washout, and there were serious complaints around sexual harassment and homophobia (one womyn from Germany left the gathering after being harassed). Fortunately, some of the most positive developments at the gathering seem to have come from this harassment, including the setting up of "our OWN support group" a wimmins support group that was dealing with each case of harassment as it came up.

The gathering brought home the realization that the yearly conferences

have grown to such a point that they aren't really useful for work anymore, and that it makes more sense to hold smaller regional gatherings to organize on a more local level (like the Ottawa gathering in May). Consequently there won't be a continental gathering next year. Anarchists in Mexico are reportedly considering hosting one in two years' time.

A "Day of Action" took place on Wednesday July 25th in Berkeley California (across the bay from San Francisco). The original plan had been to use the large numbers present to squat a building across from People's Park with a local homeless group and then turn it over to homeless people in Berkeley. The building's owners, the University of Berkeley, had kicked out homeless people to turn the building into student housing. Apparently, however, before the proposed action the city bought the building and has decided to convert it to housing for the homeless. However for some reason (which is not yet clear at press time) the anarchists went ahead with the action. Police got hold of the anarchists' plans and on Wednesday morning raided the target building and arrested the advance squatters. After this the police erected a 20 foot high wall around the building and advised all the local shopkeepers and residents in a leaflet that "*Anarchists from San Francisco who had a violent demonstration in Toronto last year are coming to do the same in Berkeley*". From what we have heard the area was swarming with police in riot gear and plain clothesmen before the planned

march was due to start. Despite all this and a belief from some people at the gathering that there wasn't a need to riot for riots sake, the demonstration went ahead. After being thwarted in attempts to reach the targeted building and the local ROTC office, the group of 400 to 600 demonstrators ended up in People's Park where, from what we have heard, they trampled on homeless people's gardens, and the homeless people ended up banding together to protect their cafe from the very people who were supposed to be there to squat a building with them. Many small shops were wrecked and it seems like the general feeling on the streets in Berkeley right now is "Anarchists are assholes". There were approximately 30 arrests.

On a more successful note, that same day, people who didn't want to go to Berkeley had a picnic in a park, with free food for the homeless. Then they marched to the Housing and Urban development office, afterwards planting a garden in an abandoned lot, all with the purpose of creating a sense of mutual aid and challenging the poverty system. Six people were arrested for "unlawful assembly".

Apparently, some anarchists, distressed by the behaviour of the rioters, addressed an apologetic open letter to the people in the Berkeley (People's Park) community, and offered to replant the gardens destroyed by the others. Although not all went well, the San Francisco organizers deserve thanks and appreciation for all their efforts.

(Based on reports from Toronto people who attended the gathering.)

Feds O.K. Cadieux' Contras

In a desperate move to destroy Lubicon Indian Nation negotiations with the province of Alberta, the federal government is creating a new Indian Band to claim the same land the Lubicons occupy. The "Woodland Cree", supposedly made up of Lubicon Band dissidents and Native people from other communities in northern Alberta, is being officially

recognized on August 28th, although the federal government will start negotiating with them on August 9th, before they even "exist".

The Lubicon Indian Nation has been fighting for 50 years for a reserve on their traditional territory in Northern Alberta. Last year, after asserting jurisdiction on their land, they came to an agreement with the province for a 246

sq. km reserve, which must be accepted by the federal government. Talks between Canada and the Lubicon Nation broke down in January when the government produced an unacceptable "take-it-or-leave-it-offer". This spring a "dissident group" appeared in the Lubicon community, supposedly made up of people who wanted to accept the federal government offer. The group was seemingly rounded up and coached by government representatives. In response the community held an early election to allow them to challenge the elected band leadership; Bernard Ominayak, the chief,

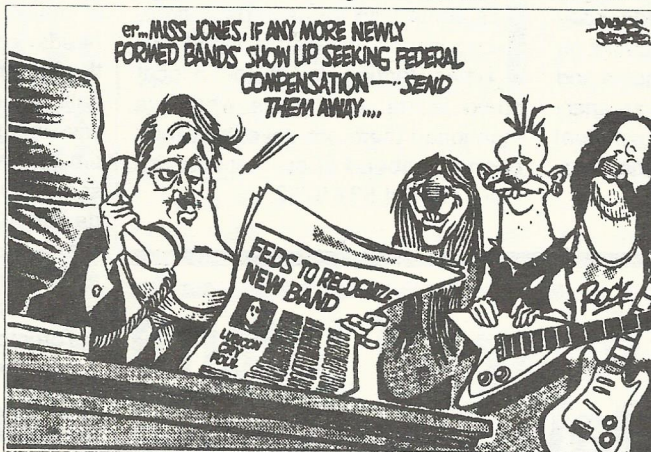
and several members of the negotiating team were elected unanimously, and no dissidents showed up.

On July 26 federal spokesperson Ken Colby announced that the new Band would be recognized. This was greeted with anger from many parts. Firstly, many bands have been waiting years to be recognized but have

the same territory belonging to the Lubicon Nation.

Although the feds claim approximately 100 of the Woodland's 300 members are from the Lubicon Nation, it won't release band lists. Lubicon Nation advisors estimate the number at 75 maximum.

The creation comes at a very opportune time for the ministry. The Lubicon



Nation is resuming talks with the province on August 15. The only way Canada could throw a wrench into what has otherwise been productive talks is to have another band contest for the same land. So the federal government has hired a lawyer, Bob Young, to negotiate with them on behalf of the "Woodland Cree" on August 9th, even before they officially recognize

been told to wait, whereas this band, which has no historical precedence nor does it even exist as a community, has been recognized practically overnight. The Department of Indian Affairs has also done it illegally, as they are supposed to hold a plebiscite in the area to see if there should be a new band created. When confronted on this Colby attempted to lie, saying the guidelines had been changed, but this has since been exposed as false. He now claims that the Lubicon Band isn't a formally recognized Band therefore a plebiscite is unnecessary (!). If the new Band is recognized, it will be claiming

the band, in order to destroy any chance of resolution of the Lubicon problem. The move to create the "band" and the federal government's bend-over-backwards approach to them has been compared to the US government's creation of contra armies in Nicaragua. The "band" has been dubbed by some as "Cadieux' Contras", after Pierre Cadieux, the Minister of Indian Affairs.

If Canada is successful in wrecking the Lubicon-provincial accord, they will again be forced to assert jurisdiction on the ground to assure their aboriginal right to territory they have always occupied.

Wednesday August 9-8th Assembly of the Fourth World Decentralist (not indigenous) Congress opens in Toronto, runs till 13th. Registration is \$125 for entire conference, \$35 for a single day, \$6 for the opening plenary Wednesday evening 7:30 (speakers are Ivan Illich and John Papworth) or the public lectures Saturday evening 7:30 by Illich and Leopold Kohr. All events at Sidney Smith building, west side of St. George just south of Harbord; you can register Wednesday afternoon. Illich has written books on why we should get rid of schools and hospitals. Although it is not an anarchist event, decentralism, like mutual aid, is a major concept behind anarchist organizing.

A REGULAR FEATURE ON ANARCHY IN ACTION

Mutual Aid



It's about time for us to get it right. Two issues ago we omitted Our Times Printing Co-Op from a local co-op listing. Last issue when we mentioned them, we gave the wrong phone number. For our last time, it's Our Times at 531-5762.

Prisoners Justice Day August 10

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and international prisoners. Admission is free (donations welcome) and the event is to promote understanding and solidarity between people on the inside and those on the outside, to honour artists who are working under difficult conditions in prisons, and to help spread their work out into the larger community.

On Friday August 11, Four Directions Circle presents a video, Great Spirit Within the Hole, about native inmates using their spiritual traditions inside the prison walls at the Native Canadian Centre, 16 Spadina Road (just above Bloor.) Admission is by donation.

Every so often we will mention in this column members of the anarchist (and perhaps other) communities needing assistance. We call for others to show mutual aid to these folks in return for their contributions to our movement. Worth mentioning is that these kind of requests for solidarity and material aid are often brought up at the Anarchist Town Hall meetings, held monthly at various locations in Toronto. Dragonfly Farm, an anarchist-run farm in Ontario, host to many burned-out city anarchists, needs donations of kitchen utensils for their communal campsite. To donate call: 921-0437 and ask for Jim. Likewise Imagine, a benefit-band were victim of a recent fire (they suspect arson). They need donations to pay for damaged rental equipment. They are not receiving compensation, and their apartment was gutted. So donations towards their housing, not easy to find in Toronto, would also be appreciated. To donate contact Joe at 927-0746.

Blood

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Emergency Drug Release Program. But Bristol Myers won't release DDI, leaving Canadian PLWAs to die without potentially life-sustaining treatments. AIDS Action Now has called on the Minister of Health and Welfare, Perrin Beatty, to personally intervene with Bristol Myers to assure access to DDI through the Emergency Drug Release Program. Until such access is secured, please boycott corporate greed. Boycott Bristol Myers.